

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: MAX ERNST EXHIBIT

REF: ROME 3876, 4287

FOR ARNDT FROM SOLMSSEN

YOUR MARCH 11 LETTER ON MAX ERNST EXHIBITION NOT YET RECEIVED. HOWEVER, CHECK WITH TOM MESSER INDICATES THAT NO EXTENSION OF SHOW TO ROME IS POSSIBLE AT THIS LATE DATE -- FIRM COMMITMENTS TO RETURN ITEMS TO LENDERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE, ETC. FYI MESSER ADDED THAT IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT IN GENERAL TO WORK OUT COOPERATIVE SHOWS WITH ITALIANS. THEY DO NOT TAKE PART IN DEVELOPMENT OF SHOWS IN EARLY STAGES, HE SAID, BUT RATHER TRY TO LATCH ON TO SHOWS WHICH HAVE ALREADY OPENED SOMEWHERE TO CRITICAL ACCLAIM. AT THAT POINT IT IS REALLY TOO LATE TO GET IN ON THE ACTION. MESSER ALSO EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT ABILITY OF ITALIAN MUSEUMS TO GUARANTEE RETURN OF WORKS IN GOOD CONDITION. ADD TO MESSER'S OBSERVATIONS THE WIDE PUBLICITY GIVEN RECENT ART THEFTS IN ITALY, AND YOU HAVE DIMENSIONS OF PROBLEM FACED BY ITALIAN MUSEUM.

END FYI. KISSINGER

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